

C. INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC CONFERENCE ON "(EN)GENDERING VIOLENCE: TERROR, DOMINATION, RECOVERY"

The Institute for Applied Social Research, Zagreb and The Center for Slavic and East European Studies, University of California, Berkeley, USA organized an International Public Conference at the Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Computing, University of Zagreb on October 27–28, 1995. Dr. Maria Olujić was the organizer and chair of the proceedings. Dr. Maria Olujić received her Ph.D. in Anthropology from the University of California, Berkeley. She has received numerous awards and grants, including a Fulbright Award, Society for Women Geographers Fellowship and Harry Frank Guggenheim Fellowship.

Twenty-three scholars from around the world gathered in Zagreb, Croatia to explore problems and solutions of contemporary violence with a sensitivity to gender. They study violence, aggression, dominance, and resistance through methods of somatic, symbolic, linguistic, phenomenological, comparative, and social historical reconstruction. In contrast with traditional studies of warfare and political violence that focus on political and military institutions, violence is researched by these scholars as a dynamic socio-cultural phenomenon. This approach studies people and the way they experience conflict and the enactment of violence. The scholars worked towards developing a new theoretical vocabulary allowing more accurate description and analysis of violent behaviour cross-culturally. A platform of issues was developed, especially with a focus on the process, historical impact, interaction, and results of gendered violence.

The locale of the conference itself was a powerful reminder of the importance of gender in understanding trends in modern day violence. Croatia has been integral in bringing to world attention the realities of modern day warfare, the importance of gender in understanding contemporary political violence, and the opportunities and contestations of peace-building. Today, more noncombatant women are casualties of political violence than combatants. More children are killed in wars than soldiers. Rape and rape camps have become synonymous with war. Millions of women are harmed in "peaceful" countries in their households and communities each year. Thus, some participants questioned the logic underlying war and peacetime violence.

The topics of the conference included physical aggression and its impact on construction of the body and soul, social domination, and cultural reconstruction. The conference was thematically divided into four

sections: i) The Body of Violence, ii) Patterns of Oppression, iii) Expressions of Oppression, iv) Victimization in Process.

The first section entitled "The Body of Violence" included the following presenters:

Nancy SCHEPER-HUGHES (Chair, Department of Anthropology, University of California, Berkeley)

Elaine SCARRY (Department of English and American Literature and Language, Harvard University)

Uli LINKÉ (Department of Anthropology, Rutgers University)

Jasna ČAPO ŽMEGAČ (Institute of Ethnology and Folklore Research, Zagreb)

The second section entitled "Patterns of Oppression" included the following presenters:

Linda GREEN (Department of Anthropology, Columbia University)

Linda-Anne REBHUN (Department of Anthropology, Yale University)

C. Nadia SEREMETAKIS (Ministry of Public Health/Advisor to the Minister, Greece)

Josip OBRADOVIĆ (Department of Sociology, University of Zagreb)

Carolyn NORDSTROM (Research School of Pacific Studies, Australian National University)

Ann Marie BUCKLEY (California Institute of Integral Studies, San Francisco)

Cathy WINKLER (Department of Anthropology, Tuskegee University)

Allen FELDMAN (National Development and Research Institutes, New York)

The third section entitled "Expressions of Oppression" included the following presenters:

Philippe BOURGOIS (Department of Anthropology, San Francisco State University)

Jonas FRYKMAN (Department of Cultural Studies and Art History, University of Bergen)

Cynthia ENLOE (Department of Government and International Studies, Clark University)

Joseba ZULAIKA (Basque Studies, University of Nevada, Reno)

The last section entitled "Victimization in Process" included the following presenters:

Darja ZAVIRSEK (School for Social Work, University of Ljubljana)

Renata JAMBREŠIĆ KIRIN (Institute of Ethnology and Folklore Research, Zagreb)

Esad CIMIĆ (Institute for Applied Social Research, Zagreb)

Petra BRECIĆ and Mladen LONČAR (Medical Center for Human Rights, Zagreb)

Narcisa SARAJLIĆ (Medical Faculty, University of Zagreb)

Maria OLUJIĆ (Institute for Applied Social Research, Zagreb)

The conference with so many eminent scholars from around the world was a wonderful opportunity to support and promote social science research in Croatia. In addition, it is hoped that future conferences will address similar issues that deserve comparative attention and analysis. This conference has also made significant contribution by bringing together academics from the disciplines of cultural anthropology and gender studies. The conference presented current anthropological research in an area where this discipline has largely been absent. Further, it revealed that there is a strong need for comprehensive research and academic focus on gender in this part of the world. The conference was made possible by generous grants from the International Research and Exchanges Board (IREX), USA and the Ministry of Science and Technology, Republic of Croatia. The seminars were free and open to the public. Simultaneous translation was available. Approximately 150 individual scientists, researchers, students, government officials, and international organization affiliates (NGOs) attended the conference. The Institute for Applied Social Research prepared a "Booklet of Abstracts" and the University of California Press is interested in publishing a volume from the conference.

Lyn Šikić-Mićanović